



Indiana State Board of Education

Room 229 State House
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2798

Statement and Action Regarding Social Studies Textbooks

The Indiana State Board of Education, recognizing that the study of history, government, geography and other aspects of social studies are critical to the development of citizens in a democracy; that under statute educational materials are evaluated based on limited criteria – including consistency with academic standards, durability, and price – that do not guarantee that the materials will constitute a rich resource for teaching and learning; having previously refused to adopt the social studies textbooks as submitted for adoption and continued use as a result of concerns that as a group they do not provide content that is interesting, engaging and supportive of effective student learning; and being aware that financial, technological and other considerations are part of the developing context for the delivery of content to students in support of their learning, takes the following actions:

1. Recognizes that professional educators accurately applied the required minimal criteria to the textbooks submitted for adoption and re-adoption and thus agrees to release the submitted textbooks to teachers for review so that local processes may move toward decisions to be made in the spring of 2009, as contemplated by the textbook adoption schedule;
2. Agrees, beginning in the Board's November meeting, to conduct a deeper review to find that content (in textbooks or other media) most apt to bring history and other social studies to life by detailing the complexity of the human experience and eliciting richer student consideration of the history, values and principles important to the meaning of America, its past and developing place in the world and the fabric of its culture and to provide affirmative encouragement to Indiana schools to utilize such content that will be most interesting, engaging and supportive of effective student learning;
3. Agrees to listen to teachers and schools and examine content and other aspects of materials to make changes to eliminate blandness and increase richness and effectiveness of use of materials available to Indiana teachers and schools; and
4. Agrees to express formally the Board's concerns to publishers and ask for their input and assistance in improving the quality of educational materials they provide.

Adopted: October 1, 2008